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[redacted] 3614-62
4 September 1962

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director (Research)

SUBJECT: Requirements and Targets Applicable for
Tactical-Type Aerial Reconnaissance
over Cuba

1. This memo is for your information.
2. In pursuance of your request that the COMINT examine the kind of information which could be obtained through the use of RF101/F8U-type of aircraft to complement the present U-2 reconnaissance of Cuba and to indicate in order of priority the information and the targets which have been submitted to COMINT, the following is reported:

a. Tactical-type reconnaissance aircraft could acquire information on the identified SAM sites which would permit more reliable estimates of the operational status. This can be derived from observation of personnel activity, rotation of antennae and missiles at the ready position. It was recognized that acquiring this information could provide details of similar equipment deployed in the Soviet Union, which is not susceptible to overflight reconnaissance.

Specific Targets:

- (1) Mariel SAM site (230055N-824930W) believed to be most advanced deployed site located to date.
- (2) SAM assembly area at Santiago de las Vegas (225740N-822130W).

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c. Tactical characteristics of small combat naval aircraft, their armament, and associated equipment could be obtained. KUMAR Patrol Guided Missile Gunboats with associated equipment are tied up at pier at Mariel Port (2301N-8245W).

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3. In addition, such reconnaissance aircraft could also provide timely information pertinent to contingency planning or needed for tactical or operational planning, which would not be available from U-2 photography, such as:

a. Detailed characteristics of defensive works, emplacements, trench systems, and revetments.

b. Location and identification of armor and vehicles in wooded areas or where camouflage is employed.

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c. Current detailed information on other non-military installations of interest to operations.

4. The foregoing was discussed at a CONON Meeting on 1 September 1962 and agreed at a special meeting on 3 September. At the first meeting Colonel Steakley of the JMC/DOD was present. He indicated he needed advice on what requirements in Cuba could be met by tactical type reconnaissance aircraft which the U-2 could not meet. The targets listed above were made available to 25X1A Colonel Steakley by DIA on 4 September.

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James G. Reber
Chairman
Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

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